--- 1/2 Pound - "Series of 1883" - BLACK - 312 x 20 mm. ---

John McKay records that 40,000 copies, *recess printed* by hand press, and 247,410 *lithographed* copies of "1/2 Black, Tobacco" were 'Delivered' under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). These *lithographed* strips are probably from the "Series of 1880-81".

John McKay next records that 423,600 copies (*recess printed* by hand press) and 33,000 copies (*recess printed* by rotary press) of "1/2 lb. Black, Tobacco" were 'Delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892).

Then John McKay records that 219,251 copies (*recess printed* by hand press) and 595,375 copies (*recess printed* by rotary press) of "1/2 Black, Tobacco" were 'Delivered' under the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897).

Finally McKay records that 1,451,460 copies, *recess printed* by rotary press, of "1/2 lb. Black Tobacco" were 'Delivered' under the **5th BABN Supplement** (1897-1898). These had been printed under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in stock when BABN lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement they were made available to the Department while ABN worked 'up-to-speed' with the die preparation and the printing of the "Series of 1897".

3rd BABN Contract - October 22nd 1878	40,000 recess (hand)	**000001** to **040000**
4th BABN Contract - October 22nd 1886	423,600 recess (hand)	**400001** to **463600**
	33,000 recess (rotary)	**463601** to **496600**
5th BABN Contract - April 23rd 1892	219,251 recess (hand)	**496601** to **715850**
	595,375 recess (rotary)	**715851** to 1-**311226**
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	1,451,460 recess (rotary)	1-**311227** to 2-**762686**
	2,762,686	

With 2,762,686 strips printed, the control listing only provides an approximation of the relative abundance or scarcity of this item, and placing them in control numbered order is not intended to indicate when they were actually printed. The 1,000,000 control sequence repeats three times upon reaching **999999**, by reset to **000001**.

I am sure that the 1/2 pound strips were not control-numbered exactly as outlined above. The *recess printed* batches, from the hand press and the rotary press, were undoubtedly mixed, and the control-number sequence will be a blend around these 'Delivered' numbers as indicated by John McKay.

It is difficult to assign these stamps to a particular printing. It would seem that the "Montreal" imprint strips were from the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886), since BABN returned to Ottawa in 1887. Thus the *imprint-free* stamps should be from the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892), and the "Ottawa" imprint should come from the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897). However the printing plates travelled with the company and the "Montreal" plates were probably used in "Ottawa" after 1887, and vice versa.

The catalogue should list the *recess printed* Series of 1883 black 1/2 pound TOBACCO strip as follows:

RP-567 - 1/2 pound, black, perforated 12, on vertical mesh wove, "Montreal" imprint - 4 mm. blue controls
RP-568 - 1/2 pound, black, perforated 12, on vertical mesh wove, "Ottawa" imprint - 4 mm. blue controls
RP-569 - 1/2 pound, black, *coarse roulette*, on vertical mesh wove, *without* an imprint - 4 mm. blue controls

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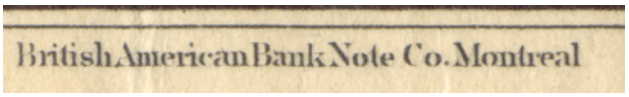
--- 1/2 Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 312 x 20 mm - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- Recess printed by *hand press* on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. blue control numbers ---

--- RP-567 - perforated 12 - with the “Montreal” imprint - scanned at 55% scale ---



--- The “Montreal” imprint - scanned at 300% scale ---

The collection ***does not contain*** a *control-numbered* copy of the 1/2 pound perforated **RP-567**, with the “Montreal” imprint *recess printed* on vertical mesh wove. **WANTED!**

RP-567n - 1/2 pound, perf 12, *without* control numbering, with a 314 x 20 mm. design,
on vertical mesh wove - with the 26 mm. “Montreal” imprint

270201	RP-567	1/2 pound, perforated - broken - only the ends

--- 1/2 Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 314 x 20 mm. - 4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) ---

--- Recess printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. control numbers ---

--- RP-569 - *coarse roulette* - *without the imprint* - scanned at 50% scale ---

By 1887 BABN had reopened a facility in Ottawa, and the “Montreal” imprint was removed from the master die, and from the printing plates.

RP-569 - 1/2 pound, coarse roulette, with 4 mm. control **909009**, with a 313x 20 mm. design,
on vertical mesh wove - ***without an imprint***

736456★	RP-569	1/2 pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove - rollered **TOBACCO / 1 -20**
909009★	RP-569	1/2 pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove
909048	RP-569 CP	1/2 pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove - stamped **CANCELLED**
909828	RP-569	1/2 pound, coarse roulette, on vertical mesh wove - rollered **TOBACCO / 6 - 17**

--- 1/2 Pound - “Series of 1883” - BLACK - 314 x 20 mm. - 4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) ---

--- Recess printed by hand press on vertical mesh wove - with 4 mm. control numbers ---

--- RP-568 - *coarse roulette* - with the 26 mm “Ottawa” imprint - scanned at 50% scale ---

RP-568 - 1/2 pound, perf 12, with 4 mm. control 1-**308390**, with a 313 x 20 mm. design,
on vertical mesh wove paper - with the 26 mm. “Ottawa” imprint

1-**308390**★	RP-568	1/2 pound, perf 12, on vertical mesh wove, rollered **TOBACCO / 8 – 17** by “Adam’s Tobacco”, Montreal

--- The 26 mm. “Ottawa” imprint - scanned at 300% scale ---

Even though BABN had officially returned to Ottawa in 1887, the 4 mm. size of the control numbers indicates that the printing was done at the Montreal plant.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Black \ 1-2 pound - 312 mm],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
September 23rd 2013 - JBH